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Agenda item 7 (h)
Coordination, programme and other questions: Ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi

Programme budget implications of draft decision E/2003/L.48

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

I. Requests contained in the draft decision

1. Under the terms of the draft decision contained in document E/2003/L.48, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolutions 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, on the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, and 2003/16 of 21 July 2003, on the establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi, would decide:

(a) To appoint the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Belgium, Burundi, Ethiopia, France, Japan and South Africa to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi and to appoint the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations as Chairperson of the Group;

(b) That the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi will invite the participation in its work of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Guatemala, in his capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council, and of Angola, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa;

(c) That the Ad Hoc Advisory Group will examine the humanitarian and economic needs of Burundi and review relevant programmes of support and prepare recommendations for a long-term programme of support, based on Burundi's development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development into a comprehensive approach to peace and stability, as well as provide advice on how to ensure that the assistance of the international community is adequate, coherent, well-coordinated and effective and promotes synergy;

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(d) To request the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi to submit a report on its recommendations to the Council by mid-January 2004.

II. Activities by which the decision would be implemented

2. Pursuant to paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict (E/2002/12 and Corr.1), it is expected that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi, would:

(a) Engage in consultations with and obtain the necessary information from relevant authorities, representatives and officials of national and international bodies and other organizations;

(b) Assess humanitarian and economic needs in Burundi and prepare a long-term programme of support aimed at the integration of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts into a comprehensive approach to peace and stability;

(c) Provide advice on how to ensure that the assistance of the international community in supporting Burundi was adequate, coherent, well-coordinated and effective;

(d) Recommend its findings for adoption by the Council and for consideration in other appropriate settings, taking into consideration the unique character and needs of the situation in Burundi.

III. Estimated resource requirements

3. In order to carry out the activities enumerated in paragraph 2 above, it is envisaged that the Advisory Group would undertake consultation missions to Burundi and Washington, D.C., accompanied by a staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The resource requirement is estimated at $85,000 to provide for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses ($76,200 for 8 members of the Advisory Group and $8,800 for one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs).

IV. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2002-2003

4. It is anticipated that the conference-servicing costs required for servicing the Advisory Group would be negligible and would therefore be met within resources available under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

5. The potential for absorption of the requirements of $85,000 within the appropriations approved under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 has been considered, and, in the light of expenditure experience to date, it is anticipated that the additional costs can be absorbed. Related expenditures will be reported to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.